Calendar

Parties, meetings, church services. . .

Sunday, December 13 — **White Gift Services** and Sunday School Concert, at St. Andrew's and St. Paul's United Church at 11:15 a.m. The choir from the Russell Public School will be singing during the service.

Sunday, December 13 — Castor Valley Baptist Sunday School Concert in Kenmore Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 14 — Meeting of the Catholic Women's League in the Catholic Church at 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15 — Christmas meeting of the North Russell Women's Institute at the home of Mrs. Bertha Smith at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15 and *Wednesday, December 16* — Annual Christmas Concert .in the auditorium of the Russell Public School at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 19 — St. Theresa Catholic Church in Marionville will have Mass at 6:30 p.m. along with a Liturgy dinner for parishioners in the parish hall.

Sunday, December 20 — Knights of Columbus will hold their Christmas Party in the Parish Hall at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20 — Children's Christmas Party in the Russell Community Centre from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. sponsored by the Russell Recreation Association.

Sunday, December 20 — Children's Christmas Party in the Russell Legion from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Monday, December 28 — Senior Citizen's Potluck Dinner meeting in the Senior Citizen's Drop-in Centre at noon.

Thursday, December 31 — New Year's Eve Dance in the Russell Community Centre from 9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. Music by Ken Miller Orchestra. Proceeds to Russell Swimming Pool Building Fund.

Thursday, December 31 — New Year's Eve Party at Benny's from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Music by Philip McVey Orchestra. Sponsored by the Russell Curling Club.

Tuesday, January 5 — Meeting of the Russell Village Women's Institute at the home of Mrs..Russell Phair at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 13 — Meeting of the Home and School Association at 8:00 p.m. in the Russell Public School.

Monday, January 18 — Senior Citizen's Potluck Business meeting in the Senior Citizen's Drop-in Centre at noon.

Tuesday, January 19 — Meeting of the North Russell Women's Institute at the home of Mrs..Jock Morrice at 1:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday night — **Russell Minor Hockey.** Come and support your favorite team.

Every Wednesday morning — Story Time for preschoolers at the Russell Public Library, at 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. For information: Lynn Ransome 445-2844 or Mary Inglis 445-2934.

Every Thursday — **Girl's Minor Hockey** from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.; **Oldtimer's Hockey** from 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. **Bingo** in the Russell Catholic Church at 7:45 p.m.

Every Friday — **Euchre** in the Russell Legion Hall at 8:30 p.m. Russell Warriors Intermediate "B" hockey at 8:00 p.m. in the Russell Community Centre. Come and support your local team.

Every Saturday — **Euchre** at the Senior Citizen's Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Every Sunday — Oldtimer's Hockey from 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday — 4:00-5:00 p.m. — free Public Skating. Saturdays 2:00-3:00 p.m., 50¢ each. Family skating Saturday 7:00-9:00 p.m., $1.00 per person or $2.00 per family. Sunday 1:00-2:00 p.m., 50¢ per person. Russell Community Centre.

CHURCH SERVICES

Thursday, December 24th — Christmas Eve Church Services:

St. Andrew's and St. Paul's United Church — 8 p.m.

Castor Valley Baptist Church — 7 p.m. in the Kenmore Baptist Church.

St. Mary's Anglican Church — Carol singing at 11 p.m.; service at 11:30 p.m.

Notre Dame Catholic Church (Russell) — 8 p.m. French Mass, Bilingual midnight mass.

St. Therese Catholic Church (Marionville) — 10 p.m. mass.

Friday, December 25th *Christmas Day Services:*

St. Therese Catholic Church (Marionville) — 10 a.m. mass

Thursday, December 31st:

Notre Dame Catholic Church (Russell) — 4:30 p.m. Mass

St. Therese Catholic Church (Marionville) — 8 p.m. Mass

New Year's Day Services:

Notre Dame Catholic Church (Russell) — 9:45 a.m. Mass

St. Therese Catholic Church (Marionville) — 11 a.m. Mass

To list your group's activities in Castor Calendar, please call Eileen Hamelin at 445-5335 with the relevant information.

Scrapbook

Oh, Tannenbaum

Suzanne Schroeter

In November, Canada Post issued three 15¢ Christmas stamps celebrating the bicentennial of the first illuminated Christmas tree in Canada.

As the story goes, in 1781 a German general by the name of Friederike von Riedesel and his family thought of a novel way to celebrate their move into a new home in Sorel, Quebec. They decorated a fir tree with lights, apples and cookies and initiated a custom which quickly spread across the country. The rose-coloured stamp bearing the date 1781 depicts this first Canadian Christmas tree.

Major Riedesel landed in Canada in 1776 with a large contingent of German troops sent to help put down the American Revolution. The following year, Riedesels wife and two children arrived in Canada.

The Americans captured the family at the Battle of Saratoga in October of 1777. After spending two years in captivity and two further years in America, the Riedesels returned to Quebec.

Governor Haldimand posted the General to Sorel, located where the Richelieu River flows into the St. Lawrence. It was here that the German family first introduced the illuminated Christmas tree to Canada.

In the years following, Christmas trees varied in presentation depending on their location.

At the end of the 19th century a pioneer woman from Regina wrote, "our Christmas tree was a leafless poplar that someone brought from the valley of the Pile 'O Bones and the ladies had foliaged it with green tissue paper and decorated with strings of rose berries and popcorn." The yellow stamp with the date 1881 shows a Christmas tree with decorations typical of that period.

Today, Christmas wouldn't be complete without a tree of some description, whether synthetic, ceramic or natural. The third stamp in the series, bearing the date 1981, shows a modern Christmas tree decorated with glass balls and electric lights.

Introduced in French Canada by a German general, this two-hundred year old custom shows no sign of wåning. As you light up your tree this holiday season, have a Wonderful Christmas!

BiblioInfo

par Lucille Legault

Bibliothèque municipale d'Embrun

Heures d'ouverture:
mardi-jeudi: 19h. à 21h.
mercredi-vendredi: 15h. à 18h.
samedi: 10h. à 12h.

A l'occasion du temps des Fêtes, les responsables de la Bibliothèque municipale organisent un concours de bricolage sous Le thème, "Je décore pour Noël." Ce concours s'adresse aux enfants de 5 à 12 ans qui sont membres de la bibliothèque.

Les participants devront faire, à la maison, bricolage, mobile, dessin, carte, guirlande, broderie ou toute autre décoration de Noël, qu'ils apporteront à la bibliothèque entre le 1er et le 19 décembre. Parents et amis sont invités à venir y admirer les bricolages.

Le préfet du canton de Russell, M. Gaston Patenaude a gracieusement accepté de remettre les prix aux gagnants le mardi 22 décembre à 19h.30 dans le local de la bibliothèque.